

SECRETREPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Poland**DATE DISTR.** 15 Feb. 1954**SUBJECT** Cameras and Photographic Equipment
Available in Poland**NO. OF PAGES** 2**DATE OF INFORMATION** **REFERENCES:****PLACE ACQUIRED** **THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION****SOURCE**

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Cameras

1. No cameras were produced in Poland. The only ones available were of German or Russian origin. They were as follows:

German Cameras

- a. Contax "S", 58 mm., with a 2.0 coated Biotar lens, which sold for 7,800 zlotys.
- b. Cine Exakta, 58 mm., with a 2.0 coated Biotar lens, which sold for about 4,000 zlotys.
- c. Practica, 58 mm., with a 2.0 coated Biotar lens, which sold for about 2,600 zlotys.
- d. Practiflex, 58 mm., with a 2.0 coated Biotar lens, which sold for about 2,600 zlotys.
- e. Good quality reflex cameras used for professional photography. The reflex cameras were available in two types; one sold for 6,200 zlotys and the other for 7,200 zlotys.
- f. Cheap cameras which sold for about 500 zlotys.

Russian Cameras

- a. FED, 50 mm., with a 3.5 coated Elmar lens. This camera was a copy of the German Leica II. I have seen the camera in second-hand shops only since 1944; it was probably brought to Poland by Russian soldiers. A secondhand camera of this type cost between

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1,600 and 1,800 zlotys. The quality of this camera was rather poor.

- b. Zorki, with 3.5 coated Industrial lens. This camera was also a copy of the German Leica II. Since the camera was of very good quality I suspect that it was produced in East Germany or with equipment taken from Germany as reparations. It was also sold only in secondhand stores and cost between 2,200 and 2,400 zlotys.
- c. Kiev, which was a copy of the German Contax II. I believe that this camera was made with Contax equipment and by Contax personnel evacuated to Russia because it was well-made. It appeared on the market early in 1953 and can be bought in photographic stores for about 5,500 zlotys. Other lenses were also available: portrait, for 4,650 zlotys and wide angle for 2,850 zlotys. The same lenses with German Zeiss inscriptions were also available in the shops.

Photographic Equipment

- 2. The following equipment was on sale in photographic stores:
 - a. Enlarging equipment of German production, which sold for about 1,000 zlotys.
 - b. Projectors for home use, which were of poor quality and sold for about 1,150 zlotys.
 - c. Film produced by Film Polski, which was obviously of poor quality since the pictures usually appeared blurry and gray. German film produced by Isopan, Agfa, Eisenberger, and Mimosa. The last two named were of poor quality. There was also microfilm of Polish production of very good quality.
 - d. Paper produced by Film Polski, which was quite good; paper produced by East German Kodak, which was of lower quality.
 - e. Chemicals produced by Film Polski and by German Agfa both of which were of very good quality.
- 3. Film and paper were not always in stock and the quality of the same products differed from time to time. Light meters were not available.

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